

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the at least two working crown plies have different respective axial widths.

The Kadota et al. patent, over which claim 1 was rejected during the prior prosecution, discloses a tire which comprises a belt, a belt reinforcing layer and a tread wherein the belt has a particular structure formed by using a rubberized strip. Each rubberized strip is slantly arranged with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire from one widthwise end of the belt to the other widthwise end thereof. Each strip is axially bent at its axially ends so as to change the inclination with respect to the equatorial plane in an opposite direction, i.e., a zig-zag pattern shown in Fig. 5. However, the layers formed by such a structure have the same axial width, as shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention employs working crown plies having different respective axial widths. It is not seen how an artisan could have been motivated to change the axial widths of the working crown plies of the Kadota et al. tire, and it is thus submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 8, deemed to be allowable during the prior prosecution, has been written in independent form as new claim 9.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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